iota petrol|diesel retail outlets and PG distributorships for each State planise. These are opened in different Sta-s|UTs on the basis of potential and ability norms being followed by the il Industry, subject to product availality. Accordingly, 1519 petrol|diesel tail oulets are included in the R.O arketing Plan for 1989-93 and 623 PG distributorships in the LPG Mar-ting Plan for 1992-94, or the coun-y Futlre marketing plans are under paration.

Agreement with Oman for supply of Natural Gas

180. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRA): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM ND NAEURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently tered into an agreement with Oman for long term contract for the supply of naral gas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; id

(c) when the feasibility study is likely) be completed and the project taken up)r execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE IINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH HARMA): (a) and (b) The Principal 'erms o fthe Long Term Gas Supply 'ontract have been agreed with Oman.

(c) Phase II of the feasibility study is cheduled to be completed by July, 1995. 'he project will be taken up for execuion by the Oman Oil Company after the ong Term Gas Supply Contract is signed.

Procurement of 3.D seeismic equipment by Oil India Limited

181. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Limited (OIL) has decided to procure a three dimensional seismic equipment SN 368, which was manufactured in 1989, overlooking the recent technologically improved equipment for the same, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) is this 3-D seismic data supplied by M/s. C.G.G., France to Oil, being processed in the OIL's Research and Development Centre Duliajan;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for processing of the same data by OIL in CGG Pan India, a joint venture, in the data processing centre at Gurgaon:

(d) what is the rate of processing on per shot basis inclusive of test processing and quality control checks charged by Pan India to OIL and what is the international rate for the same; and

(e) whether there was any global tendering for such data processing by OIL; and if so, the details thereof furnishing the schedule of rates quoted by different parties in rupee or dollor terms per shot point?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISRYMINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Due to reasons enumerated below, Oil India Limited decided to procure the entire 3-D Seismic Data Acquisiontion Package including the recording instrument, SN-368, after the completion of 3-D contract with CGG, France:

(i) According to OIL, SN-368 is a state-of-the-art technology cable telemetry system.

(ii) OIL Engineers were fully trained on this equipment during the period of contract;

(iii) The performance of the equipment was found to be very satisfactory with no breakdowns;

(iv) CGG, France agreed to supply spare for maintenance for at least 5 years and a maximum period of 8 years. CGG also agreed to provide 3 free servicings during the warranty period;

(v) The price paid for this package of equipment was sufficiently lower than new purchases;

(vi) By immediate purchase and possession of equipment the 3-D Acquisition work of OIL for the year 1994-95 can be completed.

(b) No Sir.

(c) OIL has no in house facilities for 3-D data processing, therefore, the work had to be contracted out.

(d) and (e) The limited international tenders were issued to six parties. Two parties responded as under:—

Name of Party	Quoted Rate per shot in equivalent Indian Rupees per shot
GECO Schlumberger, USA	759·00
CGG	752·00*

*Price negotiated down to Rs. 728·45 per shot.

Allotment of dealership for Petroleum Products from the discretionary quota

182. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether dealerships/distributorships for petrol/diesel retail outlets, LPG and SKO/LDO are allotted under the discretionary powers of the Minister;

(b) if so, whether any limit has been fixed upto which such allotments can be made as percentage of total allotments in a year;

(c) what was the total number of dealerships allotted for petrol/diesel retail outlets, LPG and SKO/LDO dealerships during each of the last three years and number of allotments made under the discretionary powers; and

(d) whether any specific and unambiguous criteria has been laid down for allotment of dealerships under the discretionary quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) In addition to the majority of the dealerships being awarded through the Oil Selection Boards, a few dealerships are also allotted under discretionary powers of the Government on compassionate grounds.

The number f discretionary allotments depends upon the circumstances and the necessity to make such allotments. At present there is a ceiling of 155 dealerships in a financial year as fixed in 1991. The number of dealerships allotted under discretionary quota during the last three years is indicated below:—

Year	RO	LPG	SKO/LDO	To l
1991-92	38	36	7	81
1992-93	19	64	30	113
1993-94	55	57	11	123

Difficulties to private sector in Marketing of LPG

183. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that despite opening up LPG distribution to the private sector two years ago, there has not been much headway or relief to consumers on waiting list;

(b) what are the difficulties being faced by private LPG distributors and whether continuance of Government subsidy to LPG consumers is one of these; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that when Governmental subsidy is withdrawn totally, an LPG cylinder (from INDANE, BPL, or HPCL) will cost the consum